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- (i) the data entry prompt matching at least one of the prompts in the secure prompt table,
- (ii) the data entry prompt matching only a portion of any of the secure prompts in the secure prompt table, and
- (iii) any of the prompts in the secure prompt table matching only a portion of the data entry prompt; and

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2. A security method for transmission to a remote device of data input into a transaction terminal as clear text data, comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) comparing a data entry prompt for entry of data into the transaction terminal to prompts in a secure prompt table;
- (b) determining that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt upon the occurrence of any of the conditions of:
- (i) the data entry prompt matching any prompt in the secure prompt table, and
- 10 (ii) the data entry prompt matching only a portion of any prompt in the secure prompt table; and
- (c) transmitting the data entered into the transaction terminal in response to the data entry prompt as clear text data only upon the determination that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt includes also doing so when any prompt in the secure prompt table matches only a portion of the data entry prompt.

4. A security method for transmission to a remote device of data input into a transaction terminal as clear text data, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) comparing a data entry prompt for entry of data into the transaction terminal to prompts in a secure prompt table;
 - (b) determining that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt upon the occurrence of any of the conditions of:
 - (i) the data entry prompt matching any prompt in the secure prompt table, and
 - (ii) any prompt in the secure prompt table matching only a portion of the data entry prompt; and
 - (c) transmitting the data entered into the transaction terminal in response to the data entry prompt as clear text data only upon the determination that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of determining that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt includes also doing so when the data entry prompt matches only a portion of any prompt in the secure prompt table.

6. In a personal identification number entry device, a clear text data transmission security method, comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) the personal identification number entry device receiving a data entry prompt for the entry of data from a remote device followed by a command from the remote device for entry of data into the personal identification number entry device;
- (b) the personal identification number entry device comparing the data entry prompt to a plurality of secure prompts and determining that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt upon the occurrence of any of the conditions of
 - 10 (i) the data entry prompt matching any of the secure prompts, and
 - (ii) the data entry prompt matching only a portion of any of the secure prompts;
- 15 (c) the personal identification number entry device accepting the data entry command only upon the determination that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt includes also doing so when any of the secure prompts matches only a portion of the data entry prompt.

8. In a personal identification number entry device, a clear text data transmission security method, comprising the steps of:

(a) the personal identification number entry device receiving a data entry prompt for the entry of data from a remote device followed by a command from the remote device for entry of data into the personal identification number entry device;

(b) the personal identification number device comparing the data entry prompt to a plurality of secure prompts and determining that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt upon the occurrence of any of the conditions of:

(i) the data entry prompt matching any of the secure prompts, and

(ii) any of the secure prompts matching only a portion of the data entry prompt; and

(c) the personal identification number device accepting the data entry command only upon the determination that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of determining that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt includes also doing so when the data entry prompt matches only a portion of any of the secure prompts.

10. In a data entry device that displays a data entry prompt received from a remote device and transmits data input into the data entry device in response to the data entry prompt as clear text data only if the data entry prompt is a secure prompt, an improved method of determining whether the data entry prompt is a secure prompt, comprising the steps of:

- (a) comparing the data entry prompt with prompts in a secure prompts table; and
- (b) determining that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt upon the occurrence of any of the conditions of:
 - (i) the data entry prompt matching any prompt in the secure prompt table,
 - (ii) the data entry prompt matching only a portion of any prompt in the secure prompt table, and
 - (iii) any prompt in the secure prompt table matching only a portion of the data entry prompt.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the data entry device comprises a personal identification number entry device.

12. In a personal identification number entry device that displays a data entry prompt received from a remote device and transmits data input into the data entry device in response to the data entry prompt as clear text data only if the data entry prompt is a secure prompt, an improved method of determining whether the data entry prompt is a secure prompt, comprising the steps of:
- (a) storing a plurality of secure prompts in a secure prompt table in memory of the personal identification number entry device;
 - (b) comparing the data entry prompt with the secure prompts stored in the secure prompt table; and
 - (c) determining that the data entry prompt is a secure prompt upon the occurrence of any of the conditions of:
 - (i) the data entry prompt matching any secure prompt in the secure prompt table,
 - (ii) the data entry prompt matching only a portion of any secure prompt in the secure prompt table, and
 - (iii) any secure prompt in the secure prompt table matching only a portion of the data entry prompt.